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Rilston in 1379

In 1379 Rilston was a village of 25, possibly 26 men and 31 women besides children under the age of 16. William de Rilston was lord of the Manor; there were two craftsmen in wool, a weaver and one described as a maker of shalloons, and the rest, with the exception of a possible resident priest, were the rank and file of the villages. So much the Poll Tax returns of that year tell us, returns made of all the adult population of the country, with the exception of the members of the monasteries and servants of the church. The return is a taxation list and each person's name is given with the amount at which he was to be taxed. This is an important survey as it is the first complete census and gives some idea of the status of the various individuals listed. It also makes use for the first time of surnames for nearly everyone and one can imagine some of the discussions that went on as to how a man should designate himself. Should he be simply John Wat - son, or should he be labelled by his trade as, for example, John Webster or Thomas Chaloner or Robert Milner did? Should he show that he was not a reeve 'native' by calling himself 'John de Mitton' or 'Robert de Barnscliffe? Why did William Brown and Thomas Slafoot get these names? The names would almost certainly be given by the officers responsible for making the survey, sitting in conference with the steward of the manor or the priest, so it is likely that the names were those already current, and very few would be made up for the occasion. This becomes evident when one notes that a great many nick-names are used in the lists.

For a picture of the village and its surroundings we have to use our imagination with some amount of speculation to fill the gaps left when the ground has been explored and the documentary evidence, which is scanty, read. The shape of the village has already been discussed but nothing has been said about the houses in which the peasants lived. These were mostly 'cruck-built' huts of timber with reed or heather thatch, along with many which could only be described as 'hovals'. There are no traces of these early houses left in Rilston, but at Barden and Drebley, a few crucked buildings survive, now used as farm buildings, from which we can get a fairly reliable idea of what the 'cottages' were like. We must remember

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that conditions of crowding far worse than anything we know today, were normal, and that the small cottages often held not only the family but many of its animals as well. Perhaps a good idea of the conditions can be seen today in the few surviving 'black houses' of the west of Ireland. When the houses needed to be described, they are spoken of as tofts and crofts, the toft being the small bit of land on which the house could be built, forming a small bit of surround, and the croft being a small field or enclosure just behind the toft, where the peasant could grow a crop for his own use. These ~~croft~~ form a division of the land round the village which can be recognised easily both on the maps and on the ground, today, as they have been a very permanent feature of the village life.

The Lord of the Manor loomed very large in the lives of his tenants, though in some cases the reeve counted most in their day to day existence. We do not know anything about William de Rilston of 1379, but things changed slowly and a record of his ancestor Elias, a hundred years earlier, tells that he himself held 70 acres of arable land and 21 acres of good meadow with 21 bovates of poorer land, a wood, and a large garden. All the work on these demesne lands was done by the villeins, that is, the unfree tenants, though his three free tenants owed certain services which would be agreed upon individually. The villeins were bound to give anything from one day a week to full time labour according to the season, so that some of the work on their own lands had to be done by wife and children. Sometimes even these could be called upon for weeding, crow-scaring and similar jobs, and no doubt moonlight nights saw many a man trying to catch up on his own overdue farm work. Indeed it was not a mere saying that a villein could not call his life his own. In 1373 Peter Mauleverer, who held manorial lands in another part of the township, sold his lands in Rilston and with them he sold the services of his free tenants and the actual persons of his villeins, their sequela (i.e. their wives and offspring) and chattels, just as though they were oxen and horses.

Nevertheless if William de Rilston was awake to the advantages of a contented peasantry, life would not be without its compensations. There were occasional jollifications chief of which were those ~~ax~~ connected with Harvest Hoge. Then for once every man, woman and

child could be sure of a full stomach after the meat, bread, cheese and ale provided by the Lord of the Manor had been consumed. Then for a time the poor quality bread, stringy bacon and vegetable stew of normal days could be forgotten. In this connection we must not forget the millers Robert and Thomas Milner who worked the mill nearly a mile away down Hetton Beck. There was not much of the jolly miller about them unless they were exceptions among their kind for as a rule the miller was distrusted and resented. It was ~~for~~ a feature of ~~manor~~ manorial tenure that any grain grown for flour must be ground at the Lord's mill and no farmer liked to see his precious grain going into the mill to be mixed with any odd stuff the miller might think of using. Possibly here and there an old hand quern was used for the best grain but punishment would be severe if the reeve discovered this, and the quern would be broken and thrown away. One such broken quern was found in Calton Gill, leading down to the mill. No one, not even the freeholders were exempt from the suit of mill and from the tolls which the miller exacted. In fact, one wonders how the food and other products survived when these tolls as well as church tithes of all produce were taken. Not only that but each manor had its own system of levies due to the lord, perhaps the best ox when a tenant died, and other dues on the marriage of a son or daughter. Let us hope that William de Rilston in 1379 was moderate in his demands.

The Lord of the Manor influenced the material side of the life of the village. The church was more concerned with spiritual things but in everyday life it was also an important factor. In many neighbouring townships considerable land was held by the great monastic houses, Fountains, Bolton, Furness and others, but apart from certain rights on Rilston Common Pastures this village was not affected. Nevertheless from time to time a pious person would make a bequest such as that of another William de Rilston in 1175 who made a grant of land in Bordley just outside Rilston boundary, on condition that Fountains would receive him as a brother and place his wife in a nunnery of her choice. He also asked that the Abbey would take his son for one or two years and then either let him stay on as a lay brother or allow him to leave with a gift of either a mark or a horse.

Apart from the monasteries there was a parish church and Rilston had its own church which appears to have been almost separate from

the mother church at Burnsall. It had its own curate but we know nothing about him. The villagers were lucky in not having to walk to Burnsall every Sunday and holy day, but on the other hand they couldnot excuse themselves from their duties when farm work was pressing, as they might have done with a much longer walk. Holy days were far too numerous to be taken as holidays as a matter of course, and, from inklings here and there about the villages, it seems likely that even on Sundays, outside the hours of service, work was not frowned upon. To play on the village green at such times was, however, a great misdemeanour.

Obviously under such conditions there was little time or occassion for recreation of an organised kind. Yet perhaps Rilston had a may-pole on its green, round which the children could dance, though the modern trimmings would be unheard of. More likely these were now forgotten revels descended from heathen festivals which first were kept in the homelands of Angles, Danes and Norsemen, brought to England and dressed in a Christian cloak.

Such was Rilston in 1379 as it probably had been in 1179 and was to remain until 1479 or longer. The open fields with common pasture, together with a constant struggle for existence left no room for experiment. In fact it encouraged the retention of the known and a fear of the unknown and untried. And so it was that, until a new and enterprising spirit began to spread through the country in the time of the first Elizabeth, little happened to change the face of the village round its green, with the patchwork of open fields and the wide expanse of common pasture.

RILSTON, CRACOE and THREAPLAND.

On the map of the township boundary of Rilston, the boundary between Rilston and Cracoe has every appearance of being very artificial, in that in some places the boundary runs directly across ploughed fields, and for a great part is made up of ruled straight lines and right angled bends. It is unlike all the rest of the boundary. Cracoe does not appear in the Domesday Survey and it has been assumed that the township was a late, possibly post-Conquest, daughter hamlet settled by a Norse family, from waste ground already not taken up. There is a possibility that in fact what is now Cracoe and Threapland was a part of a large and ill defined manor of Rilston.

In support of this idea the principal evidence is that part at least of Cracoe manor belonged to the de Rilstons, who were lords of the manor there, and gave land to others in terms of such opposition. In 1230, Eustace de Rilston granted to William English for his homage and service, all the land which Thomas son of Simon of Appetreewick held of him in Cracoe, viz: half a carucate of land with appurtenances except one bovate which Henry Cokul holds and two acres which Roger the chaplain holds. Also he grants to William five acres of land in the same vill. paying yearly 2d for all secular service, custom and demand.

In 1283 the the lordship of Cracoe was in dispute. Be it known that whereas dispute and contention has arisen between the Prior of Marton and Eustace de Rilston of Rilston and Elias de Katural of Tresfield and William Punchardson of Linton, concerning the lordship of the vill of Cracoe and the manor of Threapland near the said vill. The Lord Robert Nevill Lord of Raby ordered the lawful men should be chosen to inquire and divide the metes and bounds between the said lordships, who, being elected in the presence of the said Lord Robert Nevill and John Vescy Justices of the Forest of our lord King Edward beyond Trent, proof being seen of their acts accepted by fealty and oath, whose names are there: William Hertlington. Thomas Plumpton. Ranilph Skipton. John Otterborn. Richard Siveter & Nicholas Linton, who say -

The the boundaries of the aforesaid lordship are rightly made by the underwritten metes and bounds viz:-

Firstly beginning on the east part between Threapland and Thorp, and on the north part between Crakhou Linton and Tresfield from the height on Vuelmore as the water descends between the Crakhou Torrent so by going up Curkbek to the spring of the cold water, so going up the spring to the head of the spring eastwards through Corvog Hill in Swyndon Scholbh and opposite this hill by ascending the Ellerbec Torrent through the lordship of Crakhou Linton & Tresfeld as far as the end of Swirgill; and they say that whatever is contained between the boundaries so described ought to remain to the house of Marton of the fee of Lord Robert Nevill; and he should ensure to set apart and include within the same to approve the aforesaid metes and bounds within named for ever. Threpland 20 Aug. a. 12. Edward son of Henry.

Much earlier than this Eustace de Rilston had given to God and the church of St. Mary Marton and the canons serving God for the health of his soul and his father's and mother's and all his ancestors' in pure and perpetual arms. All my land of Threaplande by the ancient boundaries viz: → as Sikelit goes down from Vuetmor as far as Dunecone and from Dunecone through Keillegile, as far as Crockebec on the one hand, fowards the field of Thorp; on the other hand towards the field of Crakehou as Thursden comes down from Vuetmor in Crumpdene, and so by the stream as far as Crockebec. And one bovate of land in the territory of Crakehou viz that which Peter held with a toft and croft and meadow, and common of two hovates of land which the same Peter held in the same vill. And with all liberties and easements both in town and put town and whatever belongs or could belong to me or my heirs and to that land of Thrapland, which my grandfather Helias gave Alice his daughter and her heirs as contained in the charter of the same Helias. And whatever belongs to me or my heirs of those four acres of meadow which I Eustace gave to William de Kurgeston.

In 1335 the matter was still unsettled as we see by a charter between the Prior of Marton and William de Rilston....whereas strife and contention has been carried on between the Prior of Marton and William de Rilston regarding the lordship of the vill of Crakehou in Craven which belongs entirely to the said Prior, as by the evidence of their deeds more fully appears, the said William willing to do no wrong to the said Prior and his convent, concerning the said lordship viz:-

Who was  
Peter?

was this  
to do  
with the

Ch. which it  
is called ST Peter's

The same William quit claims to the said prior and convent all right in the said lordship. The bounds are given as - on the north part through the middle of Rysgill as it extends itself in length as far as Thwargill, and so along the boundary of Thwargill along Hellergillbeck as far as the metes and bounds between the said vill of Crakehou and Thirsfield and Lynton. And on the south part from the boundaries between Threplandes and Crakehou along of the hill as far as Stanhull above Bronsowe,

We may get a hint from William de Rilston's statement that "because from a time of which no memory remains the tenants of the vill of Crakehou and of the vill of Rilleston and the lords of the same vills have had joint common rights with their beasts in the pasture of the said vills in Northmore, and in digging of turves to be taken in the said pastures, it is agreed that either of them and their tenants may have common in the pasture of either of them in Northmore, i.e. the Prior grant to William and his tenants common of pasture within the pasture of Crakehou in Northmore and the cutting of turves there.....William grants to the said Prior and his tenants like rights with like.

(seal of Wilelmi de Rilliston - a saltire)

These disputes and the emergence of the recognition of common and undivided pasture in North Moor, along the boundary of which the artificialities we have mentioned, occur, support the idea that Cracoe has been a daughter vill within the original lordship of Rilston, and in fact at the confiscation of the Norton estates in the sixteenth century the Crown took half the corn mill and manor of Threapland, and returned this later to the Cliffords, as they had already taken the other half at the dissolution of the monasteries.

to Howard  
Hetton

lent by Mrs. Marcellus  
Ryflstonehouse. 1 - } copy  
from

by. C. V. Dawe M. Com.

a Yorkshire Township.

Its enclosure and subsequent agricultural development. The Township selected for the purpose of this paper is that of Ryflstone or Skipton in the W. R. of Yorkshire. It is on the Semestore Series and is from 400- to 1250 ft. above sea level. A convenient point from which to commence is the year 1603 when a Survey was made of Ryflstone Manor before being granted, in the 2nd 3rd year of James I; to Francis Earl of Cumberland. This manor then contained 1010 acres 10 poles, it received "old Rents" to the value of £68-14-2. and had a clear yearly value of £139-17-8 at fifteen years purchase its fee simple was £3128-14-6.

This manor previously belonged to one Richard Norton, who took part in the "Rising of the North 1569" which had as its object the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic religion in England by making Mary Queen once more. As a result of his activity in this rising which was led by the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, Norton was attainted and his lands became forfeit to the Crown.

The Township and Manor were practically co extensive the demesne was about 400 acres. and the remaining <sup>160</sup> acres were divided into 473 Tenements, some of two *organys*, others of less. An *organys* averaged from 12-13 acres. The greater part of the land was unenclosed at this period except for some meadow around the cottages. One of the fields called Townfield and lying in the valley bottom, contained all the arable land of the Township. The rest of the land was fell land, that is to say, pasture land of varying quality upon the hillsides, above these pastures which were then held in common, lay the moors upon which the Villagers had unextinguished common rights.

*organys?*

up on which

The Villagers were all tenants at will although they received from the Lord of the Manor, verbal leases for life. There were no free holders or cottagers, Fines were arbitrary but not heriots were paid. The tenement usually being granted to the eldest son or daughter of a deceased tenant. A few leases for very long periods were granted in the early 14<sup>th</sup> Century in this district one of which is given here in some detail. The lease was granted in 1624 by nineteen yeomen of the neighbouring Manors of Thorp and Linton to one Anthony Richardson whereby the latter leases several parcels of land for 6000 years at a rental of fourteen pence payable in equal portions on the feast of St Martin the Bishop in winter and at Pentecost. A payment of £32 at or before the sealing and deliving of the document was first necessary. Total area so leased was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres which had been used and enjoyed by them and their predecessors from time immemorial, for keeping and maintaining a bull under this lease Anthony Richardson "at his own proper costs and charges on this side and before the feast of St Martin next agrees to buy procure or get one good able substantial and sufficient bull and at all times during and unto the end of the said term of 6000 years shall keep and maintain one good able substantial and sufficient bull within the said town for use of all the other 19 yeomen. Any of them could at any time demand that he replace the old bull with a younger one at his own expense, as far as Rylstone is concerned little enclosure took place until 18<sup>th</sup> Century, although in neighbouring Manors Norton had made arrangements with his tenants allowing them to enclose certain parts and in Queen Elizabeth's Reign considerable enclosures of the Moors took place in those Manors. In Rylstone the only lands enclosed by the later Part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century were those of the Valley Bottoms by an act of George III. Authority was given for enclosure of large areas of Moor and fell land.

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The Enclosure<sup>3</sup> Award dated 21 Jan 17<sup>th</sup> R which carries  
into effect the act quoted, commences by saying that "there  
were within the Township of Rylstone four undivided  
stinted Pasture for the depasturing of cattle called the  
North Moor. Longhill Bark and Gaxforth Close containing  
by estimation 469 acres of thereabouts, and that by  
reason of the largeness of the said four  
stinted pastures, trespassers were frequently  
committed therein by persons turning cattle  
thereon who had no right to any of the said  
cattle gates, to the great damage and prejudice  
of the owners' and proprietors thereof, and  
that the said four stinted pastures, in case  
the same were enclosed and divided amongst  
such owners and proprietors in proportion  
to the number of cattle gates, which they  
were respectively entitled to therein, would  
be capable of being cultivated and greatly  
improved, and rendered of much greater  
use benefit and advantage to them than the  
same were at that time." There appears to  
be no doubt that while the trespassers referred to were  
the ostensible reason for the enclosure the true reason  
is to be found in the rapidly increasing demands  
of the new manufacturing towns for food supplies  
which in the case now being considered would  
consist of meat milk and dairy produce.  
Much road making had to be done in pursuance  
of the Award and the Roads had to be sixty feet  
in breadth between the fences which were  
to be "good and sufficient stone walls six feet high".  
The usual statement is made by the Commissioners  
that they have considered the quality and quantity  
of the land also the situation and contiguity of the  
lands of the proprietors. Allottees are to have full  
power on their allotments to cut trenches and divert  
streams for watering cattle, provided other persons be not  
prejudiced such are to be made within 3 years. The neighbour of anyone wishing  
to drain his land shall make cuts or trenches to assist drainage of his neighbour's land

The award is concerned with 25 proprietors owning between them 316 Cattle gates of which 50 were on Longhill 80 on the Bark, 140 on North Moor and only 14 on Garforth Close. The extent of these 14 stinted pastures were - North Moor 385 acres. Longhill, 152 acres. Bark 229 acres. Garforth Close 11 acres. Though an analysis results in a varying acreage for an average cattle gate on each Moor. It would appear that the proprietors had some idea of uniformity in calculating cattle gates for the size may be between  $2\frac{1}{2}$  - 3 acres each, when however the Commissioners made their allotments, wide divergences in the sizes of cattle gates are found. For example on the Bark a cattle gate varied from 1 to 6 acres. Some of these cattle gates were freehold derived by grant from the Lord of the Manor, and some leasehold held under leases granted by George Earl of Cumberland, ancestor of the Duke of Devonshire. In the case of freehold allotments the minerals were intended to pass but not in the case of leasehold allotments nor of course of any wastes unless the waste was held exclusively by the freeholder of the Common. It may be of interest here to mention the importance even today of this point as evidenced in a recent dispute over two quarries on one of the Moors. The Moor in question is Boss Moor and was the only one unstinted and therefore held no cattle gates. According to evidence given in this dispute the herbage was held exclusively by the freeholders and was let at a private auction each year in the Vestry at Rylstone Parish Church the Rent being divided pro rata amongst the tenant farmers in the district. Entries in the township books show that the freeholders considered themselves the owners of the Soil of Boss Moor and therefore claimed the ownership of the quarries with the consequent right to prohibit any persons from outside the Township taking stone from them. In particular they claimed the right to prevent a man named Donkin from taking stone out of the township. He was a contractor for the construction

Waste?

(5) fore claimed the ownership of the quarries with the consequent right to prohibit any persons from outside the Township taking stone from them. In particular they claimed the right to prevent a man named Donkin from taking stone out of the township. He was a contractor for the construction

Stone.

of the Winterton Reservoir required by the Lead and Liverpool Canal Co. To keep the canal adequately supplied with water at what is known as Summit Pool. In the end it was found that the freeholders had not the right of preventing Stone going out of the township since they had in earlier times given permission for this to be done. The special grievance in this case seemed to be that Donkin was making use of a Steam Crane employing 30 men, going much deeper and removing very much larger quantities of Stone than ever before. So that the Customary Cart road into the Quarry was rendered useless. In Reviewing the above case it seems that the freeholders had dealt with the Moor as their free hold in all respects. with exception, that they had not taken coal. and had only exercised the right of shooting. It seems that there had been <sup>at</sup> some time a grant from the Lord of the Manor. to the freeholders as tenants in common of Boss Moor. with the reservation of Coal and Right of Sporting. The importance of these quarries should not be underestimated for the stone was much liked, for building the houses and shiphons or cow byres. several examples being still in existence. Corncliffe School was partly built from Stone obtained on Boss Moor by the themselves for home consumption and no charge was made by the Lord of the Manor. The owners were directed to enclose and fence their allotments at their own expence ~~within~~ 14 months after the signing and sealing of the award but are allowed to get Stone for the fences from any part of the four pastures and to do their own carting. ⑥ Gaps are to be left in the new fences for 14 months (if necessary) for the convenient passage of Cattle and Carts. Fences adjoining the highways are to be maintained for ever at the sole cost of that allotment. That the question of rent Restriction

⑥ carried forward

tion is not news is borne out by the fact that the Commissioners were given power to determine whether rents might be raised by an owner to his tenant occupying one of the allotments on a lease. The Lord of the Manor's rights to all seigniorial royalties and rents were not to be prejudiced in any way neither were the tithes belonging to the Rector of the Parish Church of Bumsall to be affected, In this connection it may be mentioned that no advantage seems to have been taken by the landowners of the district, of the opportunity afforded by the enclosure of redeeming the tithes on their lands by allotting a piece of land as full recompence for them. In June 1793 Benjamin Chambers acting as agent for the Duke of Devonshire made a valuation of the tithes in Ryelstone and his report is a good account of the district at that time:— The Township of Ryelstone is a chapelry within the parish of Bumsall. The Duke of Devonshire is the Lord of the Manor and by far the greatest owner. The Dukes Hall Farm. called demesne land contains about 500 acres and is said to be tithe free. but if it was not. There is no corn or plow land upon the farm this year. There is said to be paid £3. 10-0 paid to the Rector of Bumsall out of the Corn tithe also  $\frac{13}{4}$  to the Rector of Sinton !!. The tithe hay or payments in lieu thereof with the wool, lamb, and other small tithes are payable to the Vicar of Bumsall, and this township is much like most of the Townships of Crowen, not at proper for ploughland, as the corn will naturally grow sour and flaggy and very rarely get ripe.

corn or

(7)

and when it does the oates are very husky and unkind. On the contrary there is no land more inclinable to grass, and that of the best quality therefore no person who understands the situation of this country, the quality of the land and the local advantages, would suffer a tenant to plough or even break up the land at all, the mode of management, for the tenants profit as well as the great improvement to the estates in general is to drain wet places, and lime upon the grass, ~~in general is to drain the~~ which manure Craven abounds with, and of the best quality then stock the hills with breeding cattle and sheep and the Valley (which is now the case) with feeding cattle as stock bringing forward to maturity, (The Com to the oates was then 4/- to 5/- per acre). The question of rents may now be considered, as the land became converted from arable to grass, tithes became lighter with the result that rents increased. Prospective occupiers preferred grassland to arable partly because tithes regarded as onerous but chiefly because they received greater freedom in their farming operations when tenanting a grass farm. <sup>by the begin-</sup>ning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the land was held under yearly tenancies the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  under leases varying <sup>in length</sup> from 3- to 21 years. Changes in Rent between the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and today are shown by the following details. A farm at Rythorne of 651 acres was rented for £201 in 1488, namely at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per acre including the house. In 1848 this same farm yielded a Rental of £735 or 13 $\frac{1}{5}$ d per acre. In 1880 £540 - 16.7d per acre. In 1900 this farm was increased to 786 acres and then gave a Rent of £454 equivalent to only 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per acre, Ry

⑨ Con.

Present Rent

10% ~~500~~

The Restriction Act this Rent since increased by 10 per cent to £500 so that this farm today is rented at 12/99 per acre. It will be observed that the highest Rental was obtained in 1880 and that since then there has been a decline set in with the bad years of the eighties.

⑧

The period of high Rents may be stated to be between 1860 and 1880. Without going into too great detail the effect of the Slump on Rents may be seen by the fact that a farm of 156 acres of good land was rented in 1880 for £302 in 1881 for £240; in 1882 with 5½ acres more, for £284. in 1885 for £264; and in 1887 for £230. another farm of 32 acres dropped £1 per acre in those 6 years. The Rents of the "Seventies" were so high due to the boom in agriculture

that a contemporary land agent who had had wide experience said he did not know how tenants could make farming pay at the rents they were paying. In 1874 34 acres of good land gave a rent of £85 while the same farm with an additional 6 acres in 1888 only £10 Rent.

The Purchase price of land in this district was high in the Sixties and Seventies and was partly due to the fact that Bradford Merchants who were then experiencing a period of prosperity, gave high prices for farms and estates one farm was then purchased for £6000, the occupier spent an additional £3000 in improvement and repairs and a few years ago this farm was bought by another for £4000. The Rates on agricultural land as distinct from Buildings, and increased since 1862 from 1/2 in the £ to 2/4 in 1926. In this latter year Rylstone Township had an annual net value of £2974 of which £1603 (full value) represented agricultural land. another £71 represented other hereditaments not being agricultural land.

## Rylstone Ploughing?

We've done this, and find quite a lot of old Ploughing

also Hettens, <sup>there</sup> is more than I thought

Lynchets on the <sup>down</sup> Edgegrave Rd  
Boundary field?

and in Grimesgill Plantation.

Louise has the Map of this.

⑧ Con.

An examination of Census Returns Show that the population of this Township has decreased more or less steadily since 1801. at that date the pop was 177. in 1921 it was 118. The peak reached in 1811 when there were 192 persons. the lowest point was 104. 1861 there are evidences that this Township was once more industrialised even than today for there are remains of an old cloth mill a corn mill and a Row of Cottages which were pulled down about 1850 a fairly large trade in wool was also carried on with Skipton which had a large warehouse for sorting and combing wool.

? where

⑨

The wages of persons in Rylstone about 1800 are not easy to state with any degree of finality since there are several disturbing influences. In the first place there was no general regulation of wages. such as the present wages board gives. Secondly the Speenhamland System upset all previously known rates, and thirdly a large proportion of this population were farmers on their own account. Occupied tied Cottages or were boarded in the employer's house, Eden in 1795. Collected information concerning wages and found the average family wage throughout England to be 11/9<sup>d</sup> per week. The Yorkshire Labourer was found to have the lowest wage. In the reports to the Board of Agriculture on Yorkshire in 1794 the average wages of agricultural labourers are put at 1/6 a day say 9/- a week. There is considerable to show, however, that in the West Riding, that wages were higher than elsewhere. because of the attraction of the new manufacturing industries. It has been calculated that in Leeds about this time

(9) con.

Mullwrights earned 18/- to 21/-  
Carpenters and Masons. 15/- to 18/-  
day labourers 9/- to 12/- Per week  
Journey men Clothiers 9/- to 15/-  
Ploughmen £12 per annum with Food and Beer.  
A Man Servant about £10-10/- with Board and Washing  
(Per annum)  
A Woman Servant £5-5-0.

Agricultural labourers finding their own food.  
obtained from 2/- to 2/6 per day.  
almost double what they received 10 years previous  
because of the influence of new urban industries  
Wages rates taken from the account books  
of the Lord of the Manor for 1772. are as  
follows.

Carter	£18-0-0	per annum live in
Housekeeper.	£36-10-6	.. .. board wages.
Gardener.	£38-14-6	.. ..
Housemaid	£21-2-6.	.. ..

(10)

The hours of labour were from 6 AM - 6 PM.  
in Summer. less about 2 hours for meals. in  
winter from light to dusk. A considerable  
amount of labour about this time was  
done by the piece and piece rates were  
quite usual especially for the very considerable  
amount of walling hedging and ditching  
carried out in pursuance of the enclosure  
award. Possibly a few examples of such  
rates may be of interest:-

In 1800 - for Road making with a wall  
6' 3" high on one side - the Road to be cast  
and levelled 3 1/2 yards broad. 12/6 Per Road  
inclusively In 1813 Ploughing for Turnips 3 times  
times over. £2-5-0. per acre.

Road?

(10) Con.

ordinary ploughing 12/6 - 15/- per acre.  
In 1814 Drain cutting at 10<sup>d</sup> per Rod of 7 yards forward  
and 2 ft deep - 2 ft wide at Top. and 14 in in the Bottom.  
A man with 2 horses leading and harrowing at 9/- per day  
making a wall 6 feet high 3 feet wide at Bottom tapering to  
13 inches at top. 8<sup>s</sup>/11 to 11<sup>s</sup>/6 per Rod. of 7 yards.  
(Stones free except per Carting.)

The cost of living in those days cannot  
easily be compared with that of to day but the  
following prices may give some indication  
In 1794

Beef Mutton Veal Pork about. 4<sup>d</sup> per lb.

Butter 8<sup>s</sup>/4.

Wheat 8/- per bushel or 14/3 per Cwt.

Oats 3/6 to 4/- - - 9/4 - 10/6 - -

1811. Malton 7<sup>d</sup> a Cb.

Veal 1<sup>s</sup> - -

Beef. 7<sup>s</sup>/2 - -

Butter 11<sup>d</sup> -

Wheat 9<sup>s</sup>/- per bushel or 16<sup>s</sup>/- per cwt.

Oats 5/6 - - - 14<sup>s</sup>/8.

Tea 13<sup>s</sup>/- per lb.

Bread usually baked at Home say 1/- per  
gallon loaf.

The end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century was a period of enlightened outlook in agriculture generally, and because of the Napoleonic war and growth of urban population was a very profitable industry. Arthur Young estimating the profit from 14% to 20% on capital. Breeds of Cattle and Sheep were greatly improved and agricultural produce of all kinds was cheap. Between 1715 - 1765 however a period of general agricultural distress was experienced, which affected the district now being considered. In the Spring of 1744 the agent of the Lord of the Manor reported that the weather had been so bad that the tenants were unable to plough or sow because of the wetness of the ground. He points out that most of the tenants are graziers laying out their money in providing stock for the Summer, and that they cannot pay their rents because they suffered greatly through the last season. Their stock in many instances producing little more than prime cost, so that they lost their grass and the interest on their money.

Note →

→

In 1793 a Skipton farmer told the Board of Agriculture that Turnips could not be grown here as they would rot away owing to it being such a wet climate. This statement is not quite correct since before this date turnips were grown for fodder though not to any large extent. Until a few years ago there was a small acreage of cereals grown, and the local farmers, through their co-operative requisite Society, purchased a Threshing machine which was hired out by individual farmers. Since the end of the war in 1918 however the cereal acreage has declined almost to nothing with the result that no one wished to use the Thresher and it was consequently sold. The chief energies of the Township are concentrated in

(11) Con.

Cattle Rearing and fattening for Skepton Market  
There is a fair amount of sheep rearing carried on on the fells, but few cows are kept because of the distances from any large market, a number of small dark cow byres, some dating from 1694 are still in existence on the hillsides but are not now used for their original purpose.

Much of the Milk that is produced either goes for calves or for butter neither being very profitable. A letter to the Board of Agriculture in 1903 from a man near Skepton says that he finds no material alterations in the past century or more. During the past 40 years he says there was a considerable portion in tillage and the ploughing was carried out by 4 to 6 men or 1 or 2 Horses. The district was then famous for a herd of long horned cattle particularly oxen but since the introduction of Scotch cattle and grazing, the long horned and the tillage have been neglected. The land lords did not favour ploughing of the fine lands. Population was therefore low and corn prices high because not enough was grown. In 1698 milk sold to retailers fetched 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per gallon, and was retailed at 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> or 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> a gallon. Nearly a century later in 1794 the retail price for milk was 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> - 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> a gallon. } Few pigs and poultry are kept in Ryelstone, although it would seem that a greater attention to both these classes of stock in view of modern Marketing Methods and Requirements would be well rewarded. especially as they could be run in conjunction with the cattle. Some prices for livestock in 1864 taken from a farmer's account books are —

Consists of Limestone from the neighbouring quarries at Swinden which goes first to Leeds then to Middlesbrough for use in the iron and steel industries. There and elsewhere traffic consists mainly of coal mainly in use in connection with the Quarries. The quantities of minerals need not be discussed here except that it may be mentioned that the post war depression in the Iron and Steel Industry has had its effect upon this district and has therefore effected employment there.

The Railway too has felt the recent competition of Road Transport both in passage and in farm produce especially livestock. The imports of Irish and Scotch Cattle come by Rail either to Skipton or Helliwell and then walk to Rylstone and neighbouring Townships so that the Railway does not benefit greatly from Transport of agricultural produce in the district.

In conclusion I should like to express my sincere thanks to those who so kindly gave me any assistance within their power, and especially to Col W Maude for placing both his private papers and his intimate knowledge of this district at my disposal; Mr R G Proctor for the loan of the Awards and Maps, to Mr Downs, for giving me full access to the Records of Bolton Abbey, and last but not least to Mr Thompson who has elucidated many obscure points for me in the history of the Township.

## Ribston Townshk.

- 1 Position of Ribston Topography and Physical geography.  
Geology and natural history - vegetation late glacial, present
- 2 and hence early Settlement of the Area (Short note on its curious Boundary explanation Pre history of this.
- 3 { Domesday Survey, interpretation of this. Size Etc? Cracoe.  
Kirkby's Inquest. increase in Cultivation?  
Poll Tase survey 1379 List of inhabitants Occupations
- 4 Outlying Settlements - of Etc Bu Cross Scale.  
? any medieval history of these.
5. Church - early history to Dissolution, Chambers Etc Etc - fragments of ~~an~~ early Church what date?
6. Descent of the Manor to the Nortons Norton Tower  
Dispute with the ~~Nortons~~ Cliffords Survey  
at forfeiture state of woods Grant to Cliffords  
Deer Park. When was the Old Hall given up?  
Old Hall Site.
- 7 Domestic - buildings prior to 14<sup>th</sup> Century.  
Shape of Village.  
The Mill The Pound.
- 8 14<sup>th</sup> Century domestic architecture - houses farm buildings Etc details of some of the buildings
- 8 Descent of the Common fields at beginning of 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The partial enclosure.  
The En closure award. 1472 ) Deed 1491 at Helton  
The Tithe award. That I'm working  
Boss Moor Fair. out in 1964.  
See this